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Message Text

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14
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-19 TRSE-00

EUR-25 RSR-01 /154 W
---------- 096116
R 301500Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0366

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0989

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN LY
SUBJ: LIBYAN PURCHASE OF U.S. AIRCRAFT

REF: TRIPOLI 0983

1. JULY 30, SUBSEQUENT TO TRANSMISSION REFTEL, THOMAS E. DONEGAN OF TRANS WORLD AIRLINES (TWA) TECHNICAL PROJECTS GROUP, CALLED ON EMBASSY. DONEGAN RELATED THAT TWA AND LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES (LAA) NEGOTIATING FOR FULL-RANGE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OPERATIONS PROGRAM TO REPLACE AIR FRANCE. TWA INVOLVEMENT GOES BACK TO LATE 1960S, WHEN TWA PREPARED OPERATIONS PLAN AND ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL FOR PRE-REVOLUTIONARY KINGDOM OF LIBYA AIRWAYS. SHORTLY AFTER TWA PREPARED THEIR PLAN, REVOLUTION OCCURRED. FROM DATE OF REVOLUTION UNTIL EARLY JUNE OF THIS YEAR, TWA HAD NEITHER NEWS ON NOR PAYMENT FOR THEIR PROPOSAL. IN JUNE TWA RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM LAA REQUESTING TWA REPS COME TO TRIPOLI "TO DISCUSS PAYMENT FOR AND IMPLEMENTATION OF" THE PLAN. LAA TELS DONEGAN THEY ARE DETERMINED TO REPLACE AIR FRANCE AND TO ESTABLISH OPERATING RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AVIATION FIRM PRIOR TO ACCEPTING DELIVERY OF BOEINGS. DONEGAN BELIEVES TWA'S ONLY POSSIBLE
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COMPETITION FOR CONTRACT WOULD BE BOEING, WHICH

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DONEGAN FEELS NOT LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED IN OVERSEAS OPERATION OF THIS SCALE. (HOWEVER, WE RECALL THAT PAN AM MADE ATTRACTIVE TRAINING OFFER TO LAA TWO YEARS AGO IN HOPES OF GETTING FOOT IN DOOR).

2. COMMENT: THERE NO NEED POINT OUT LONG-RANGE BENEFITS OF HIGHLY VISIBLE AMERICAN AIRLINES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. ELEMENTS OF PLAN, WHICH WILL CALL FOR U.S. TRAINING OF LAA PILOTS, CABIN STAFF, MAINTENANCE AND GROUND OPERATIONS PERSONNEL, MAY ALSO PROVIDE USG WITH SUBSTANTIAL LEVERAGE IN FALL CAMPAIGN OF THE PASSPORT WAR. COMMENTS BY LAA OFFICIAL, AS REPORTED REFTEL, AND DONEGAN'S REPORT THAT LAA ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED OF AMERICAN SUPERIORITY IN AVIATION FIELD, ALL GIVE RISE TO POSSIBILITY THAT MAJOR AMERICAN COMPANY WILL SOON BE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN LIBYAN CIVIL AVIATION, INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL.
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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